

WASHINGTON - Congressman John W. Olver (1st District) delivered the following remarks on the House floor today:

I rise today to commend Chairwoman Lowey, Ranking Member Wolf, and the Foreign Operations Subcommittee for their leadership on this issue.

Yet even as I acknowledge the significant resources included in this bill, I cannot contain my outrage at the news that the Sudanese government has agreed to the deployment of a joint United Nations-Sudanese peacekeeping force.

Just last week, Sudanese President Omar Bashir agreed, yet again, to the deployment of a joint United Nations-Sudanese peacekeeping force.

But do we have any reason to believe that this latest agreement is anything but one more delaying tactic to avoid a full-scale international investigation into the genocide in Darfur?

Last week activists representing 36 organizations addressed a letter to UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon demanding a full-scale international investigation into the genocide in Darfur.

I simply ask five questions. How many times, in this Congress, have we and will we congratulate ourselves for passing a bill that does nothing to stop the genocide in Darfur?

It's time to stop the shilly shallying, stop the attacks on civilians, and bring peace to Darfur. Today, as we debate this bill, the Sudanese government is still attacking civilians in Darfur.